(b) whether Government have approached to get some aid from foreign countries to implement the Command Area Development schemes; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Kota and Bikaner Divisions of Rajasthan are covered by the Chambal and Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana Command Area Development Projects respectively, under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme. The objectives of the Command Area Development Programme is to improve utilisation of created irrigation potential and to improve production/productivity from irrigated command. A number of Command Area Development activities relating to irrigation agriculture development such as construction of field channels field drains, land levelling/shaping, implementation of warabandi, carrying out adaptive trials, demonstration, training, farmers participation etc. are being undertaken under this programme for which central assistance on matching basis for selected activities are made available under an approved financing pattern.

(b) and (c) An agreement was signed in February, 1990 between India and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to participate in a research and development project to improve agricultural land and water management practices in the irrigated areas of Chambal Command and Indira Gandhi Nahar Project. The CIDA assistance is around 62.07 million Canadian dollars.

A loan agreement was also signed in March, 1990 with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan in scrutiny of existing design and performance of main canal and to furnish design and estimates for works relating to seepage conrol, control and removal of blown sand and control and removal of aquatic weeds from main canal of the Indira Gandhi Pariyojana. The estimated loan amount is around 84 million yen.

The Chambal Phase II Project submitted by the Government of Rajasthan is under process for posing for external assistance.

Sharing of river waters with Bangladesh

4334. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission's meeting was recently held at Dhaka to decide the sharing of river waters;

(b) whether both the countries have agreed to share the water of Teesta river; and

(c) if so, the details of the issues discussed in the said meeting and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The last meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission was held at Dhaka in June, 1990.

(b) For sharing the waer of Teesta river no agreement has been reached.

(c) The Commission Meeting at Dhaka attached importance to the need of an agreement on sharing of the waters of Ganga and Teesta river and directed for expediting the works regarding it.

Water dispute between Rajasthan and Punjab

4335. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Economic Times, New Delhi, dated 6th February, 1992 under caption "Water disputes with Punjab loom large";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to hold discussion with Chief Ministers of Punjab and Rajasthan to remove the differences, if any particularly on the closing of the SARHIND feeder for some